

THE PHRENOLOGIST
DISCUSSES FRIENDSHIP

I WAS requested to take, for my collection, a cast of the head of a lady who was, as they told me, the model of friendship. I took her cast, more out of kindness than in the expectation of making any discovery, and I endeavoured to get a correct one. On examining this head, I found two great prominences, constituting the segment of a sphere, by the side of the organ of the love of offspring. As, up to that time I had never seen these prominences, which however were evidently formed by the brain, and exceedingly symmetrical, I considered them as a cerebral organ: but what were the functions of this organ?

In order to get some general view on this point, I inquired of all the friends of the lady, respecting her qualities and faculties. I attempted to learn of the lady herself, what propensities and faculties she believed she possessed. All united in confirming what had been told me, that she had an invincible attachment to her friends. Although her fortune, at different periods, had experienced great changes, and by degrees she had passed from poverty to honors, her feelings for old friends had never changed. This characteristic trait struck me. The idea occurred to me, that the disposition to friendship might also be founded in a particular cerebral organ. This opinion acquired with me a still greater degree of probability, as the prominences, that I had observed on the head of the lady, were placed immediately above the organ of physical love, and by the side of that of the love of offspring, and these three sentiments have some analogy with each other. Whatever may be the difficulty of making exact observations in man, on the organ in question, and on its functions, the idea, that attachment and friendship depend upon a particular cerebral organ, acquired by a degree of probability almost equal to certainty.

From GALL, F. J. *The Influence of the Brain on the Form of the Head*. Lewis, W., Jr., transl. Boston, Marsh, Capen, Lyon, 1835, vol. 3, pp. 299-300.